

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: To Be Assigned

Filing Date: To Be Assigned

Applicant: Joel C. Higgins

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Title: METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR ENHANCING
PROSTHETIC IMPLANT DURABILITY

Attorney Docket: 5490-000378

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A. Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cross-referenced pending U.S. application listed below in Section IV, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C. Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

D. This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. If the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application.
2. English translations are provided.
3. Other:

C. The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A. The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No.

Filing Date

Art Unit

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. X **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b):** (check only one box)

1. X within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.
2. _____ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.
3. _____ before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
4. _____ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. _____ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):** (check only one box)

before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. _____ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
2. _____ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. _____ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):**

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. _____ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or

B. no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

B. Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 30, 2004



Richard W. Warner
Reg. No. 38,043

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

BGS/les

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)		ATTORNEY DOCKET No.	SERIAL No.
		5490-000378	To Be Assigned
		APPLICANT	
		Joel C. Higgins	
		FILING DATE	GROUP
		To Be Assigned	To Be Assigned
Sheet 1 of 3			

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.		2002/0183850	12/05/2002	Felt et al.		
2.		2002/0013625	01/31/2002	Abouaf et al.		
3.		6,558,421	05/06/2003	Fell et al.		
4.		6,506,215	01/14/2003	Letot et al.		
5.		6,383,222	05/07/2002	Budorf		
6.		5,755,802	05/26/1998	Gerber		
7.		5,197,987	03/30/1993	Koch et al.		
8.		5,171,282	12/15/1992	Pequignot		
9.		4,673,408	06/16/1987	Grobbelaar		
10.		2003/0028254	02/06/2003	Hunter et al.		
11.		6,514,289	02/04/2003	Pope et al.		
12.		5,997,577	12/07/1999	Herrington et al.		
13.		5,683,468	11/04/1997	Pappas		
14.		5,562,730	10/08/1996	Davidson		
15.		5,169,597	12/08/1992	Davidson et al.		
16.		5,415,704	05/16/1995	Davidson		
17.		5,370,694	12/06/1994	Davidson		
18.		5,037,438	08/06/1991	Davidson		
19.		5,334,264	08/02/1994	Meletis		
20.		5,308,412	05/03/1994	Shetty et al.		
21.		4,743,308	05/10/1988	Sioshansi et al.		

Examiner:	Date Considered:
-----------	------------------

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL No.
		5490-000378	To Be Assigned
		APPLICANT	
		Joel C. Higgins	
		FILING DATE	GROUP
		To Be Assigned	To Be Assigned

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 2 of 3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
22.		4,511,411	04/16/1985	Brunner et al.		
23.		4,465,524	08/14/1984	Dearnaley et al.		
24.		4,040,129	08/09/1977	Steinemann et al.		
25.		Re. 35,863	07/28/1998	Sachdeva et al.		
26.		2002/0198601	12/26/2002	Bales et al.		
27.		2002/0107578	08/08/2002	Speitling et al.		
28.		5,868,796	02/09/1999	Buechel et al.		
29.		5,811,194	09/22/1998	Kurze et al.		
30.		5,593,452	01/14/1997	Higham et al.		
31.		5,427,631	06/27/1995	Johansson et al.		
32.		5,326,362	07/05/1994	Shetty et al.		
33.		4,790,851	12/13/1988	Suire et al.		
34.		4,687,487	08/18/1987	Hintermann		
35.		3,643,658	02/22/1972	Steinemenan		
36.		3,338,805	08/29/1967	Pochily, et al.		
37.		6,238,491	05/29/2001	Davidson et al.		
38.		6,187,045	02/13/2001	Fehring et al.		
39.		5,879,388	03/09/1999	Pienkowski et al.		
40.		5,169,597	12/08/1992	Davidson et al.		
41.		5,057,108	10/15/1991	Shetty et al.		

Examiner:	Date Considered:
-----------	------------------

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
		5490-000378	To Be Assigned
		APPLICANT	
		Joel C. Higgins	
		FILING DATE	GROUP
		To Be Assigned	To Be Assigned
Sheet 3 of 3			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes No
1.						

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)		
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	
1.		

Examiner:	Date Considered:
-----------	------------------

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.